

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, after the title, please insert:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 1, line 8, please insert:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 1, line 25, please insert:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-14, 18-19 and 22:

Please amend Claims 15-17, 20-21 and 23-24 as follows:

15. (Amended) A method for finding a chemical compound which binds to a polypeptide with the biological activity of a very long chain fatty acid elongase, comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting a polypeptide with the biological activity of a very long chain fatty acid elongase or a host cell containing the polypeptide with the biological activity of a very long chain fatty acid elongase with a chemical compound or a mixture of chemical compounds under conditions which permit the interaction of a chemical compound with the polypeptide, and
- b) determining the chemical compound which specifically binds to the polypeptide.

16. (Amended) A method for finding inhibitors and/or activators of a polypeptide with the biological activity of a very long chain fatty acid elongase, comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting a polypeptide with the biological activity of a very long chain fatty acid elongase or a host cell containing the polypeptide with the biological activity of a very long chain fatty acid elongase with a chemical compound or a mixture of chemical compounds under conditions which permit the interaction of a chemical compound with the polypeptide